

Habitat & Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

Date: September 12, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: John L. O'Brien Building, Room B12, Olympia, WA 98501

Attendees:

Kaleen Cottingham	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wendy Brown	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wendy Loosle	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Tom Bugert	The Nature Conservancy
Hannah Clark	Washington Association of Land Trusts
Jeff Parsons	Puget Sound Partnership
Leslie Betlach	City Government Park Planners/Washington Recreation and Park Association
Cynthia Wilkerson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Clay Sprague	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Steve Brand	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Laura Moxham	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
John Gamon	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission

Item 1: Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Agenda

Wendy Brown welcomed the members of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (Lands group) and reviewed the agenda. The members and attendees introduced themselves.

Item 2: Member Updates

Round Table Updates: 2017 Proposed Legislation

Ms. Brown provided information about the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) budget requests for the 2017-19 biennium. RCO submitted its largest salmon-related capital budget request to date at approximately \$230 million. The request for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is \$120 million. The total RCO capital budget request is approximately \$460 million.

Steve Brand provided a brief summary of the budget requests submitted by State Parks. John Gamon shared that the DNR budget requests are focused on the WWRP statutory changes, a trust land transfer package, and for support of the Natural Heritage Program. DNR is seeking a replacement for Jed Herman, who will be represented by Brock Milliern on the Lands Group in the interim.

Josh Giuntoli described the budget requests submitted by the State Conservation Commission, programs regarding food policy, increasing local capacity and coordination, and funding the implementation of energy efficiency plans.

Hannah Clark shared the Washington Association of Land Trusts support for various agency requests, including RCO and DNR, noting that representatives will be in Olympia advocating their interests and priorities. She summarized the efforts to support Natural Resource Conservation Service funding as it aligns with the WWRP program and investments in forest health across the state.

Tom Bugert provided updates on behalf of The Nature Conservancy whose priorities include WWRP, PSAR, the PILT program, and efforts to coordinate support with WDFW, counties, and conservation groups during the next legislative session. He shared information about project budget requests, support for the

Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative and Washington Waters referendum, and forest health priorities.

Jeff Parsons summarized the budget requests submitted by the Puget Sound Partnership, focused on monitoring and adaptive management, PSAR needs, and support for other agency requests for nearshore habitat, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Floodplains by Design, and the Fish Barrier Removal Board. He also shared that the agency is seeking further support for internal needs, based on the recent staff reductions and resulting workload impacts, and intent to hire several positions.

Kaleen Cottingham provided further updates on behalf of RCO, including the planning advisory committee now in place for updating the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Clay Sprague and Cynthia Wilkerson shared information about WDFW budget requests, focused on Washington Wild Futures program priorities which include increased licensing fees, commercial fishing, hydraulic permit approval legislative changes, RFEs, and liability immunity. Additional requests include support for PILT open space rates, federal farm bill funding, and funding to implement planning and efforts related to the aquatic lands easement program.

Leslie Betlatch shared the support for the WWRP request for \$120 million.

Item 3: Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee: WWRP and State Land Acquisition Study

Eric Thomas, Matt Beverlin, and Rachel Murata, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC), presented information about the JLARC study currently underway focused on measuring the outcomes of habitat and recreation acquisitions and regulations, a comparison of six east and west counties, and assessment of agencies' land stewardship programs. The six counties have yet to be determined.

Ms. Murata described the initial efforts to work with agencies to begin gathering data and information, requesting guidance from the group as it relates to the project. Lands Group members offered contacts, program information, previously published reports, and other related details that may support the JLARC team's efforts in conducting their study. The team is set to present their findings to the committee in December 2017.

Item 4: Preview of Draft Web-Based Forecast Report

Wendy Loosle presented a mock-up of the web-based Forecast Report using ArcGIS Online. RCO staff proposed using the online format for reporting data versus the historically used PowerPoint format. The Lands group discussed potential options, and members from DNR, State Parks, and WDFW offered to join a volunteer workgroup for crafting the online report for 2018.

Item 5: Planning for 2017 Meetings

Ms. Brown proposed removing the fourth quarterly meeting and scheduling additional meetings as needed. The decision was made to cancel the November 2016 meeting. The group also discussed the proposed 2017 meeting dates: February 23; June 1 (combined forum and regular meeting); and September 19.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.